

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:LGR
APPROVED BY P - PHILIP C. HABIB
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

-----140637Z 038198 /10
R 132343Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T STATE 008515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, US

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GENERAL MURDANI --
BILATERAL TOPICS

1. GENERAL MURDANI HAD HOUR'S MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY
HABIB JANUARY 12. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION OF
TOPICS OF PRIMARILY BILATERAL INTEREST. OTHER TOPICS DIS-
CUSSED ARE SUMMARIZED IN SEPTEL.

2. TIMOR. MURDANI INDICATED THAT THE SITUATION WAS IN
HAND BUT NOT RESOLVED. HE ESTIMATED THE CURRENT
NUMBER OF FRETILIN GUERRILLAS AT 1600-1800. THERE HAD BEEN
SOME RECRUITING BY FRETILIN FROM INHABITANTS OF THE

FRETILIN CONTROLLED AREA, ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE WITH
FAMILIES RESIDENT IN THE AREA. THE GOI DID NOT INTEND
MAJOR DRIVE AGAINST FRETILIN AT THIS TIME, MURDANI -AID,
BUT INTENDED TO WITHDRAW PERHAPS 40 PERCENT OF ITS FORCES

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TEMPORARILY FROM TIMOR FOR DUTY DURING THE MAY ELECTIONS.
AFTER THE ELECTIONS THEY WOULD MOVE AGAINST FRETILIN.

3. TIMORESE REFUGEES. COMMENTING ON HIS BRIEF UNPUBLI-
CIZED STOP IN LISBON EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON, GENERAL
MURDANI SAID THE MAIN TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS REPATRIATION TO

PORTUGAL OF TIMORESE WITH PORTUGUESE CITIZENSHIP. HE NOTED THAT THE GOI WAS ALSO CONCERNED OVER THE TIMORESE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA. THE AUSTRALIANS HAD BEEN ASKED TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO THOSE WHO CHOSE NOT TO RETURN TO TIMOR. INDONESIANS DID NOT WANT ANOTHER DUTCH-TYPE RSM MOVEMENT TO EMERGE IN AUSTRALIA.

4. INDONESIA AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. MR HABIB EMPHASIZED THAT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WERE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA AND OF ASEAN TO THE U.S. OTHER AREAS HAD BEEN ATTRACTING MORE ATTENTION AND MORE PUBLIC COMMENT BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE PROBLEM OR CRISIS AREAS. WE SHOULD BE GLAD THAT ASEAN WAS NOT IN THIS CATEGORY. HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE MAJOR NEW PROGRAMS FOR INDONESIA, MR HABIB SAID, BUT HE COULD ASSURE THE INDONESIANS THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD A FULL UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF INDONESIA AND OF ASEAN. HE HOPED MURDANI WOULD CONVEY THIS TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

5. JOINT CONSULTATION. IN RESPONSE TO MURDANI'S QUESTION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF US-INDONESIAN JOINT CONSULTATIONS, MR HABIB SAID HE COULD NOT FORETELL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF JOINT-COMMISSION TYPE ARRANGEMENTS. HE WAS SURE, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA WERE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CALL FOR SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS OF SOME SORT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ABSOLUTE FLOOD OF REQUESTS
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FOR EARLY MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION LEADERS WHICH HAD TO BE SORTED OUT.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. MR HABIB SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE GOI'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS. IT WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIA KEEP UP THE PROGRESS. HE WAS SURE THE INDONESIANS RECOGNIZE THIS. THERE WILL BE NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH WILL AFFECT JUDGMENTS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHERS. HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SLACKENING OF THE GOI'S EFFORTS.

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